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# Alternative Farming Systems Information Center

National Agricultural Library

U.S.D.A., NAL

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United States  
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## What is the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center?

The Alternative Farming Systems (AFS) Information Center is part of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), which is located in Beltsville, MD. The Center is the focal point for those interested in obtaining information from either the popular or scientific literature on all types of alternative farming practices.

The Center serves many types of users. It can help:

- A farmer thinking of converting from traditional chemical-intensive crop production to alternate modes of insect and weed control or soil improvement.
- An Extension Agent who needs to keep abreast of the latest experience in conservation tillage or no-tillage for erosion control and energy cost savings.
- An agricultural researcher looking for literature on crop yield comparisons with various legume-based rotations.
- A new farmer who wants to try a purely organic method on the homestead.
- A private citizen interested in learning about organically produced foods, or the best way to build a compost pile for enriching the gardening soil.
- A group or organization concerned about the ecological effects of herbicide and fertilizer runoff into rivers and streams from agricultural lands.

The AFS Information Center can help these and many other users interested in learning more about alternative agricultural methods.

## What services can the AFS Information Center offer you?

### Reference

The Information Center staff can assist you in finding answers to specific questions or in beginning a more extensive research program. They will also:

- Assist you in accessing NAL's extensive collections on a broad range of agricultural subjects.



- Refer you to organizations or experts in the field who can provide you with additional information.

- Identify current research conducted by USDA research agencies.
- Furnish you with bibliographies on such topics as "Integrated Pest Management" or "Composts and Composting of Organic Wastes."

- Perform brief complimentary searches of the AGRICOLA database on specific topics of your choice, or exhaustive searches on a cost recovery basis.

- Assist you in formulating your own searches, if you have access to a computer terminal.

### Document Delivery

Once literature searching has identified certain documents that you would like to read, we can guide you in selecting the document delivery service that best meets your needs.

The variety of document delivery services available includes:

- Interlibrary loans of books through any institutional or public library.
- Photocopies of journal articles from AGRICOLA citations as well as from other databases if the cited journals are in the library's collections. There is a cost recovery fee for photocopying.
- Location of books or journals that are not found in the NAL holdings.
- Reproduction of microforms for a cost recovery fee.

More detailed information regarding lending and document delivery policies and fees is available in the following information sheets:

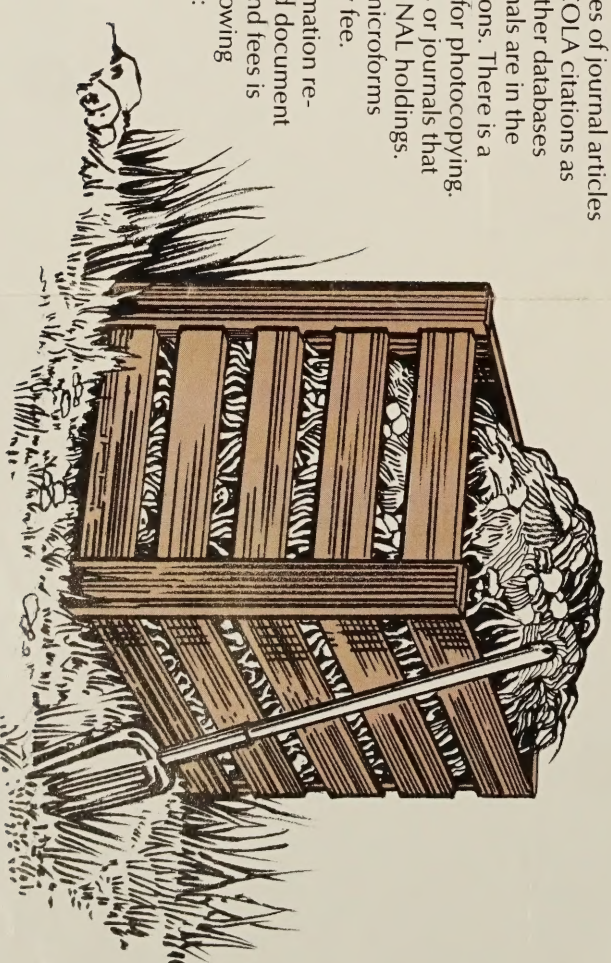
- "Document Delivery Services to Individuals,"

"Document Delivery Services Available to Libraries and Other Information Centers and Commercial Organizations," and "Photocopying Facilities at NAL." You may also contact the public services desk at (301) 344-3755.

## Your help could expand AFS Information Center services

The AFS Information Center staff concentrate their efforts on acquiring books, periodicals, reports, and other material related to alternative farming systems to enrich NAL's already extensive resources. You could help us to serve you and others better by:

- Letting us know of document collections in this field that might be donated to NAL.
- Telling us about especially useful books or serials that we should try to acquire, or experts we might want to know about.
- Making us aware of organizations with whom we might cooperate or who might offer us grants or funds for special projects.
- Reporting to us when our services need improvement, or when you have been particularly pleased with our efforts.
- Notifying us if you would like to be placed on our mailing list.









## About the NAL

- Largest agricultural library in the free world, with approximately 1.8 million volumes and subscriptions to 26,000 periodicals from all over the world.
- One of three national libraries in the United States.
- Collections include books, journals, maps, slides, microforms, films, and microcomputer software acquired through purchase, gifts, and exchange.
- Coordinator and primary resource for a national network of land-grant university and USDA field libraries working together to deliver information to all sectors of the population, including private citizens, researchers, lawmakers, students, farmers, and others in the agricultural community.
- Producer of AGRICOLA, a bibliographic database consisting of over 2 million records for literature citations to journal articles, books, and reports about all aspects of agriculture. The database is accessible through two nation-wide information retrieval systems, DIALOG and BRS.

If you would like more information about the AFS Information Center, write or telephone:

Alternative Farming Systems Information

Center

National Agricultural Library,

Room 111

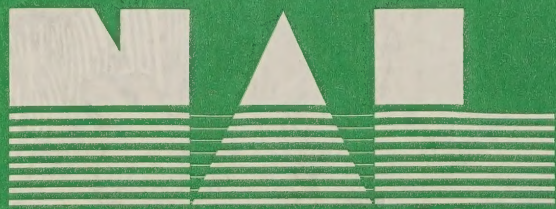
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(301) 344-3704

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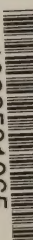


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